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The Flyleaf

Friends of Fondren Library

Vol. 50, No. 1

Fall/Winter 1999/2000



The Friends of Fondren Library
Honor Mrs. Ray Watkin Hoagland Strange

A Letter to the Friends

Dear Friends of Fondren Library:

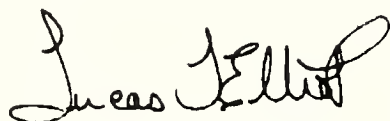
As we ended 1999, the Friends' new board and dedicated membership celebrated a number of extremely successful events. The annual Distinguished Guest Lecture, chaired by Texas Anderson, featured the internationally renowned author, Carlos Fuentes. Mr. Fuentes was extremely well received, as evidenced by our largest audience ever for such a lecture, and an enthusiastic reception and book-signing. Only two weeks later, we hosted our annual Book Sale, chaired by Norma Scott and Robins Brice. Rice faculty and staff were invited to join our preview party, which increased attendance at this Friday night event. Similarly, the annual Homecoming Brunch was especially well attended as guests gathered to honor Ray Watkin Strange for her long-time support of Fondren Library. Mrs. Strange shared the day with Rice Engineering Alumni honorees, Dr. Robert R. Maxfield and J.D. Sitton, III.

As we enter the year 2000, we are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Friends. At our gala on February 19 we honored all of the Friends' Past Presidents, and this annual event took place, appropriately, in the Fondren Library. We were delighted to see many of you there.

Looking to the future, the Project for the Renovation and Expansion of the Fondren Library is well under way. Sally Reynolds, former board member and president of the Friends, has signed on as the Project Coordinator, and she will be working with architects, Robert Venturi and the team from Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott, as well as faculty, students, library staff, and the community at large. We look forward to hearing from Sally and Chuck Henry as the project progresses.

The new Millennium promises challenging and exciting times at the Fondren Library, and we encourage you to join us for the library's journey into the future.

Sincerely,



Lucas T. Elliot
President

Fondren Library

Founded under the charter of the university dated May 18, 1891, the library was established in 1913. Its present building was dedicated November 4, 1949, and rededicated in 1969 after a substantial addition, both made possible by gifts of Ella F. Fondren, her children, and the Fondren Foundation and Trust as a tribute to Walter William Fondren. The library celebrated its half-millionth volume in 1965 and its one-millionth volume on April 22, 1979.

The Friends

The Friends of Fondren Library was founded in 1950 as an association of library supporters interested in increasing and making better known the resources of Fondren Library at Rice University. The Friends, through members' contributions and sponsorship of a program of memorials and honor gifts, secure gifts and bequests, and provide funds for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other materials that are needed to support teaching and research at the university.

The Flyleaf

Founded October, 1950, *The Flyleaf* is published by the Friends of Fondren Library, MS - 245, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251-1892. *The Flyleaf* is a record of the activities of the Friends, the Fondren Library, and the generosity of the library's supporters. *The Flyleaf* is published three times in each academic calendar year and is also available online at the Friends of Fondren web site at <http://ruf.rice.edu/~fofl/>.



The Flyleaf

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Looking Ahead: The Future of Fondren Library

A Talk by Charles Henry, Vice Provost and University Librarian

Friends of Fondren Annual Meeting, May, 1999

As always it is a privilege to speak with you this evening, especially following the action of the Board of Trustees approving Fondren's new addition and expansion. This project will usher in a new era for Fondren Library, opening what may be its finest chapter.

As we stand tonight poised to move ahead to reconfigure and redefine Fondren, I'd like to speak briefly about the future as it shimmers slightly beyond our reach. This future has the library and the university intertwined, as they should be. One of the great strengths of the Fondren project is its foundation in the academic mission and strategy of Rice. It is foremost a building that will be shaped by intellectual needs.

This correlation is acutely important as we near the next century, for the future, however cloaked, has made more than a few outposts in our time and it is fairly certain that there will be two roads taken in the coming years for higher education. The one will be bounded by digital circuitry, the other, which includes Rice, will be a more interesting and powerful amalgam.

Online Universities

Let us first look to the emerging online schools. The fastest growing segment of higher education is invisible. Its presence is difficult to comprehend, but its growth is no illusion. In the last five years several important universities have come online. These include: the University of Phoenix, with 48,000 students at 57 learning centers in 12 states; DeVry Institute of Technology (Chicago), with 50,000 students on 15 campuses in the United States and Canada; Webster University (St. Louis) 15,000 students in 64 U.S. locations.

Western Governors University, just starting up, envisions 95,000 students. Mike Leavett, governor



Suzy and Al Hirshberg and Kyle Frazier

of Utah, describes the WGU as eventually "the New York Stock Exchange of technology-delivered courses." One of the driving financial incentives for these virtual universities is summarized by the cable entrepreneur Glenn Jones, who declares, "Let's get the cost of real estate out of education."

I mention these start-up ventures because they need to be taken quite seriously. Each has already attracted a lot of publicity, increasing sums of venture capital, and tens of thousands of students. While the concept has been ignored or dismissed by more traditional educators, for the first time, an online university was accredited last month. The North Central Association approved the curriculum of Jones International University.

These new developments represent a fulfillment of sorts for writers like Lewis Perleman who, prognosticating in the 1980s, could describe as if in gleeful reverie young people obtaining their educational degrees in shopping malls, with everything they need to read available online and hassle free. It was very common to attend conferences and demonstrations, have a keynote speaker hold up a CD-ROM and declare that the Library of

Congress would fit on to a disk that size, soon. Universities would **save** a fortune by closing their libraries. Universities could **make** a fortune by closing themselves.

But we do know what "taking the real estate out of higher education" means. It is not just land and buildings, it is an immensely complex social construct of intensive interaction of students with students, expert faculty, and the quality of service provided to attain new understanding and knowledge. Taking out the real estate is to disembody the enterprise and to cede its efficacy to a poorly understood digital environment.

Online universities are dependent on the Internet for communication and the Web for almost all of the content delivery for their courses **and** as the means for student/faculty interaction. There appears to be little student to student interaction or communication at these schools. While this may work for certain kinds of teaching and learning, the Internet and Web have certain characteristics that are inimical to the more traditional practice of teaching and learning and bear much more scrutiny.

Three come to mind. The first is the most noted: sheer volume. The Web now has an estimated 800 million pages or addresses (remember the World Wide Web was made public only in 1992; thousands of pages have been added as we sit and enjoy dinner tonight). Much of this is junk, outdated, or poorly constructed. The volume alone makes the Web a difficult place to navigate, and far more skill is needed to utilize effectively this behemoth than is usually understood.

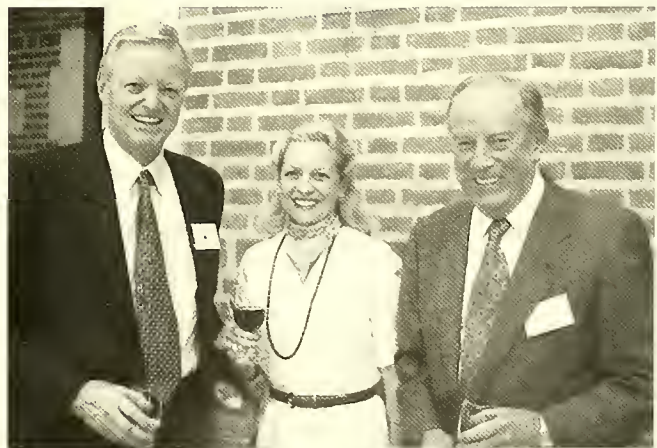
Two other characteristics are perhaps more troubling. The Web, simply put, moves. Most all new pages are awash in pop-ups, floating banners, colorful overlays, and animated words and images. Advertisements fly across the screen. The characteristic has a long tradition in pop culture: technology as an instrument of action. The problem here is that it is likely action comes at the expense of reflection. We watch, we don't engage.

The third facet of the web is something the histo-

rian David Lowenthal believes is its most serious flaw: the huge amount of data and the bright lights create what Lowenthal calls an unnatural **presentness**. The Web and the Internet are taken as the sole source of information; untrained students tend to think of it as all knowledge packaged at their fingertips, the authority for a new, hip age. In this presentness the past, the historical and cultural underpinnings of our lives and customs, our rituals and our language, become, in Lowenthal's term, a foreign country.

It is not the technology per se that I find disturbing. I have focused my career on technology and its applications in higher education. What is so deeply troublesome is the absence of effort to understand its implications and longer term effects on what can legitimately be called the common good, and the slippery, uninformed assumptions behind these digital ventures.

Online universities are marketing themselves to younger audiences as 'real education.' This plays comfortably with the notion that whatever is digital is the future. The truth, I think, lies elsewhere. The construction of courses and educational systems that rely on very narrow flows of easily tested facts and figures to remote end-points (the individual student sitting alone) conjures not an energetic future of multiple media and limitless virtual experience but the vision articulated at the turn of



Outgoing FOFL board members Chuck Wheeler, Sally Reynolds, and Lew Eatherton

the last century of New York City. In the twentieth century, it was predicted, New Yorkers would enjoy a perpetual delivery system of letters, newspapers, i.e., information, sandwiches—you name it—through a vast network of pneumatic tubes. Much of the touted advancements of digital information defined as an educational product is poised at the threshold of a new century, but we need to ask which one.

The problem is pervasive; take for example the recent report from Arthur Caplan, Director of the Center for Bioethics at Penn. Dr. Caplan is deeply concerned with the new technology associated with bioengineering and its ethical ramifications. This includes issues as personal as patient privacy to the wider consequences when we finally understand the molecular basis for life. He knows that legislators are beginning to articulate policies and laws, and has made a point to reach out to them. At a meeting recently of twenty state legislators, only two knew that DNA was found in most all of the cells in our body. Some thought it was only in the brain, others hadn't a clue. One can imagine, absent even a lay person's grasp of the fundamentals of our physical make-up,

that we will again be reduced to clichés, ideologies, and news clips at the expense of civil

responsibility and, in the case of a deciphered genome, wonder and a recontextualized world.

It is interesting to note that the newly released Star Wars movie is the apotheosis of these elements, brilliantly, if sadly, reflecting a generation born digital. The human characters are washed thin to the point of cartoons, computer technology is pressed to the limit to create a fantasy world of extraordinary technological achievement and dependence, the power and influence of which is often expressed through speed and martial com-

bat (action upon action). The governing wisdom, such as it is, is neatly summed by a mystical knight to his student: "Concentrate on the moment. Feel. Don't think." This is a high-tech joy ride through presentness if ever there was one.

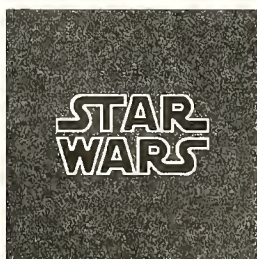
Contrast Star Wars with the following:

- A pack of Lucky Strikes
- A desk lamp
- A six pack of Budweiser
- A Jimi Hendrix album
- A Bronze Star
- A can opener

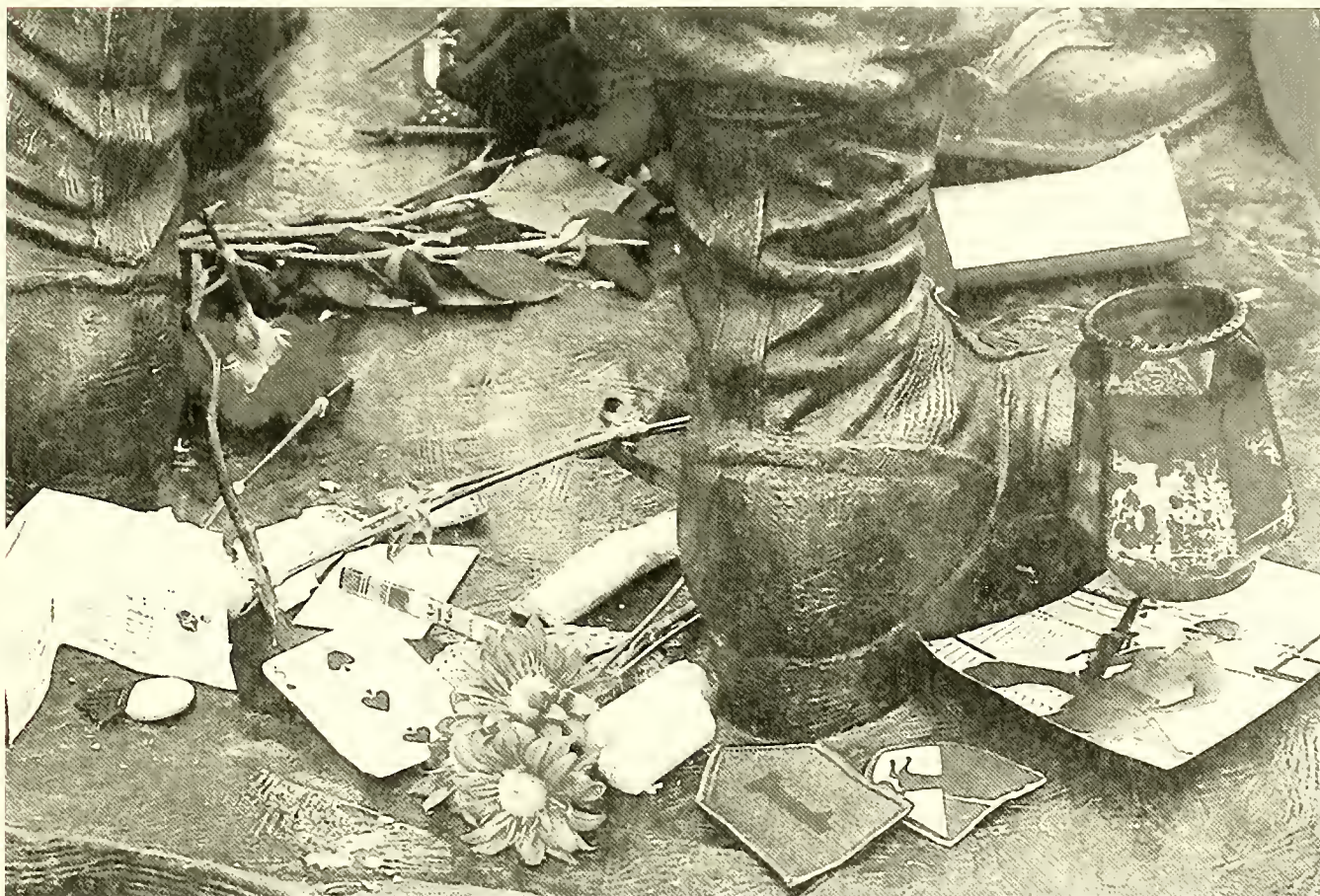
This list of objects, a cross between a minimalist poem and a yard sale, takes on greater poignancy when we learn it is a small part of an inventory of thousands upon thousands of objects left at the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington. That so many people continue to view the memorial, walk its sloping path, and leave something of themselves behind is worth pondering, as it reveals a deep and abiding aspect of humanity that our education must confront.

A number of themes can be extracted from this eclectic list. One is that impulse to be physically present at the memorial; the gifts and the many pictures of visitors leaning against the wall, touch-

ing it with just their finger tips, or collapsed and sobbing at its base attest to the power of being there, and often being there with others. The objects themselves are loaded with narrative possibilities, but the truth of each will remain mysterious. Was the beer something two soldiers shared together? Did the visitor listen to that music in Vietnam, or was it something an older brother liked? Was the can opener just something the person grabbed when walking out of the house, wanting only to leave something, anything, behind? We are



*"CONCENTRATE ON
THE MOMENT. FEEL.
DON'T THINK."*



nonetheless intrigued enough to study the objects, to devise stories, to try to construct the disparate threads of lives and experiences gently propped against the dark stone face of the memorial.

The objects speak also of reconciliation, of the need to acquiesce, to harmonize, to make compatible painful historical events that resist our efforts. The brilliant and appropriately abstract polished walls and list of names, like the war it signifies, invite, and almost beg, interpretation of the most profound kind but this requires engagement. Unlike the Star Wars cartoon, this monument says, "Feel, but also think. Do not concentrate on the moment, but remember us. Remember."

***"FEEL, BUT ALSO THINK.
DO NOT CONCENTRATE ON
THE MOMENT, BUT REMEMBER US.
REMEMBER."***

Rice University

This brings us to the second road of higher education, upon which Rice is firmly situated. To get a glimpse of a more interesting,

less retrofitted future, turn for a moment to 1912, the year of opening ceremonies of this bold and almost surreally located university. Here was an ornate, striking building of brick and marble and tile rising from a vast sandlot well beyond the town limits. The terrain of the life of the mind was decidedly different as well. In those days a student could spend four years and accumulate a store of knowledge that would last through much of a career in many disciplines. Today, studies suggest that much of what an undergraduate

learns in some science and engineering disciplines becomes obsolescent in five years after graduation, and sometimes **less** than 5 years. Some knowledge in the computer sciences will become dated during the course of the degree program.

These studies signal an enormous change during the past several decades and augur that a mastery of information is no longer criteria for a successful career (this, we must remember, is one of the more interesting ironies of the Information Age). Leadership will come from mastery of a more complicated form of human expression: the ability to ask a good question.

Some might think: well, yes, of course. It has always been so. It may have been so, but the examples provided earlier, from electronic schools to bioethics, to the most anticipated movie of all time, suggest that this is precisely a skill we as a culture are losing. One need not look very far to see that the kinds of publicly spoken questions today are often not asked to tease out new knowledge or explore a subject more deeply but are floated to reinforce a preconceived point. Discourse, engagement, leaving part of oneself behind in order to attain connection with something that is only partially understood is threatened, again ironically, by a sea of information, flashing images, bites of sound, and a peculiarly pneumatic world vision.

Charlan Nemeth, professor of psychology at Berkeley, has studied the decision making and concludes that poor decisions are usually not made by stupid people. They are made because some people have such a strong conviction of the correctness of their assumptions and the conclusions they want to articulate that the information that

challenges or confronts these assumptions is dismissed. Thus 'searching' and 'questioning' and 'information gathering' are highly nuanced and complex tasks. Owen Chamberlian, the Nobel Laureate for discovering the antiproton, said he wasn't smarter than others but he had a sense of the right questions.

Fondren Library

We are created by our questions. It is no accident that this appears as a recurrent phrase in the Master Plan for the new Fondren Library. Its prominence is

significant. It is a recognition that the world is changing, and that the new library will adapt to it, and it gives notice that this library will not be organized around more traditional compartments and services, but will be designed to support the act of questioning in unprecedented ways. As the art historian R.D. Dripps has argued, architecture must continue to address

political, cultural, and ecological issues. Ultimately, the role of architecture is to provide the structures that enable us to interpret the world and make it habitable.

The plans for Fondren include a major new addition to the west and a comprehensive renovation of the existing 1949 building. Some of its elements include a two-story arcade through its center, open ended, connecting the two main quadrangles of campus. Aesthetically, it should be stunning: from the center you can look east and see the sallyport and the oak lined avenue to Main Street. Look west, and the Shepherd school, the Jamail Fountain, and newly-landscaped green between RMC and Herring Hall will fill your eye.

The arcade is purposeful. While students will continue to study in quiet corners, it is realized



*Trish and John Brice with
Annual Meeting Chair Pamela Giraud*

that new kinds of expertise will be needed to best use the complex array of traditional and media based resources. The grand arcade will be staffed with the most knowledgeable librarians anywhere, supported by staff and high immersion technology. Even if you just walk through this library between classes, you will learn something. This focus on services—new and more aggressive services—will singularly give Rice an advantage over other institutions who are more slowly coming to realize that investing in expertise and intellectual acumen and putting these people in open spaces allows for the most flexibility in an era of great change.

New sightlines and open spaces will also help to orient library users quickly. One of the themes repeated in interviews with faculty on campus for the Library Master Plan was the need for the new building to reveal, not conceal, activity: students should see what others are doing in the computer labs and in some of the classrooms, and also be able to see how a library's parts are interconnected.

The new Fondren Library will house a variety of rooms and spaces for collaboration. These will range from small spaces for two or four to larger rooms for small classes and impromptu gatherings of students. The rooms will be well equipped and designed to encourage questioning, multiple resource acquisition, and the idle conversation.

The new library will also house a Cybercafe. The loftier reason for this is that knowledge acquisition, as noted already, is in part a social act. Really, though, the Internet seems more manageable after four or five double espressos.

The university's strategic plan emphasizes interdisciplinarity as a prevailing trend into the next century, and also postulates that Rice should develop more courses and programs that bring undergraduates into contact with graduate students doing research. These spaces will support those goals.

The new library will have digital production spaces connected to teaching rooms. These spaces will be designed and arranged better to hone and understand the changes taking place in teaching

and research methodologies, and better to grasp new strategies of learning. In this regard the new library will foster innovation and a more thoughtful integration of digital and traditional resources in the university's academic mission.

Conclusion

The library is the heart of a university. This phrase gets repeated every few years in most library newsletters; I recently saw it etched in stone on the floor of a newly dedicated library in Dallas. Heart can mean a vital center, a source of being, the most important or essential part. A few years ago, William Bowen, president of the Andrew Mellon Foundation, offered these words when asked about the hold libraries continued to have on him:

In part because of their ambiance, the sense they give of the power of ideas and the luxury of being stimulated and encouraged to think for one's self. Libraries are humbling places, because they remind us of the vast store of knowledge which we can approach but never really control. They are humanizing places and symbols of the continuity of learning. They stand for such basic principles as freedom of expression, the need to recognize and respect a diversity of views, and the obligation finally to come to one's own conclusion—and then to be held accountable for [it].

Yes, but I would say the stakes are higher. A library is the most powerful instrument of reconciliation our culture has devised. In it, and through it, we come to learn, to acquiesce, to make compatible, and to harmonize ourselves with the past and with the world around us. Reconciliation requires tough, revealing, honest, and often self-effacing questions. The future depends upon this. If Rice, with its bold plan, and a new, astonishing Fondren Library, can teach this, it will flourish into the next century, its heart strong, and ever so vital.

Ray Watkin Hoagland Strange Honored at Homecoming

BY DOROTHY KNOX HOWE HOUGHTON

“We have all drunk from wells we did not dig and have been warmed by fires we did not build.” This anonymous quote sums up the philosophy behind Ray Watkin Hoagland Strange’s life-long interest in preserving historical records, particularly those relating to the development of Rice University. Her recent gift to Rice of \$500,000 for an archives reading room in the renovated Fondren Library represents the culmination of her efforts over many years.

Mrs. Strange’s father was William Ward Watkin, who graduated number one in his class in architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. He came to Houston in August, 1910, at the age of twenty-four as a representative of the architectural firm of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson, the group that designed the first five buildings on the Rice campus. Mr. Watkin supervised the construction of those buildings. His original plan was to return to work at his firm in Boston when the buildings were completed. However, construction took longer than anticipated, and he fell in love with a beautiful young lady from San Antonio, Annie Ray Townsend. Having decided to marry and stay in Texas, he proposed to Dr. Lovett that Rice should have an architecture department. Mr. Watkin stayed at



Friends of Fondren honoree Ray Watkin Strange and nephew Bruce Barrick

Rice to establish that department and was its chairman until his death in 1952. Thus his daughter, Ray, literally grew up on and with the campus. Her life has been inextricably intertwined with the development of the university.

Mrs. Strange was born May 11, 1915, in the Watkin family home at 5009 Caroline Street not far from the campus. She remembers attending graduation ceremonies at Rice from the time she was a small child. She said that when Rice opened, almost all the Rice faculty were under thirty, and



J.D. Sitton, Paul Phillips, and Robert R. Maxfield

Doctor Lovett, the eldest, was only thirty-six. She was home schooled through the second grade by her mother. Then she entered the Kinkaid School while it was located in Mrs. Kinkaid’s home at the corner of San Jacinto Street and Elgin Av-

enue. Subsequently her father designed the new Kinkaid School on Richmond Avenue. When she was thirteen years old, her father took the family to Paris where he spent a sabbatical leave studying architecture. While they were there, her mother died of pancreatic cancer, so the family returned to Houston.

Following graduation from the tenth grade at Kinkaid, Mrs. Strange entered Chatham Hall, an Episcopal preparatory school in Chatham, Virginia. In 1932 she entered the Rice Institute where she majored in French and graduated in 1936. During her senior year she was queen of Rice's Archi-Arts Ball which raised funds for the architecture department. She served as Duchess of Rice at the Galveston Mardi Gras and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. In 1939 she married Carl Biehl, a shipping executive, and moved to Washington, D.C. where he accepted a position with the War Shipping Department. When Mr. Biehl left for England with the Army Transportation Corps, Mrs. Strange returned to Houston and Rice where she pursued a masters degree in the history of art under the auspices of the architecture department and Professor James Chillman. In 1955 she and Mr. Biehl were divorced, and in 1961 she married Henry W. Hoagland. She and Mr. Hoagland divided their time between their homes in Boston, Houston, Kennebunkport and Tucson.

Following Mr. Hoagland's death, she married Robert F. Strange on January 25, 1997, and now lives in Brenham, Texas.

In 1987 Mrs. Strange received a Meritorious Award presented annually by Rice to two or three people for their contributions to the university. The Stranges are members of the Rice Associates and the James A. Baker Society. Mrs. Strange is a member of her Golden Anniversary (50th reunion) Scholarship committee and serves on the board of the Rice Historical Society. She served on the Rice Fund Council for two terms and



Ray Watkin Strange and Nancy Boothe

endows the William Ward Watkin Traveling Scholarship in Architecture.

Beyond the university she has served on the boards of the Junior League of Houston; the Junior League of New Orleans; and the historic village of Strawberry Banke (now Portsmouth, New Hampshire), the colonial capitol of New England. Currently she serves on the board of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society.

One of her accomplish-

ments of which she is most proud is her role in establishing the Rice University Archives in the Fondren Library to which she has donated her father's papers. She credits two women in particular for helping her preserve the record of the university's early days. Pender Turnbull, who had worked in the Rice Library since her graduation from Rice in 1919, was the heroine who guarded the papers concerned with the building of Rice through many years when those papers were kept in the basement for lack of a proper storage area. In 1975 Mrs.

Strange organized the Rice Alumni History committee, now known as the Alumni Archives Committee.

Caroline Hooton Wallace, Executive Director of the Alumni Association, helped Mrs. Strange approach alumni to ask them for their scrapbooks from their days at Rice. This project yielded wonderful materials on life at the university through the years,

including Capt. Baker's scrapbook. When the Woodson Research Center opened, the Rice Archives finally found a suitable home. Mrs. Nancy Boothe now keeps them there under her watchful eye, and Mrs. Strange is most grateful. When the renovation of Fondren Library is completed, library patrons will be able to peruse all of these materials, which Mrs. Strange helped save in the new archives reading room which she so generously has donated.

Board Profiles

TEXAS ANDERSON



Texas Anderson

Texas Anderson has received recent fame in Houston as the mother of Wes Anderson, filmmaker (Rushmore and Bottle Rocket), but to us at Rice she was well-known long before. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology at Rice, has served on the Rice Alumni Board, is Alumni representative to the Rice University Graduate Council, and is the immediate past president of the Friends of Fondren Library. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the University Area Rotary and was recently appointed by Mayor Brown to the Houston Archaeological and Historic Commission. She manages to perform well all of these civic activities even as she works as a leading real estate broker for Greenwood King. In addition to Wes, she is the proud mother of Dr. Mel Anderson, a doctor in internal medicine, and Eric Anderson, a writer and artist now residing in Boston.

JOHN BRICE

John Brice is new to the Friends of Fondren Library Board, but not to a regard for libraries. He and his wife Trish were enthusiastic members of the Friends' "Libraries of England Tour." Rice University, where John received his B.A. and B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, has often been the beneficiary of the generosity of the Brices. He is a Founding Donor of the Baker Institute and has been a long-time member of the OWL Club. John went from Rice to Amoco, from which he retired after thirty-two years. His retirement has been to the good of Rice, where he has



John Brice

served on the Major Gifts Committee of the Fund Council, as well as to other civic organizations that benefit from the additional time retirement has provided him. He has worked with Junior Achievement, with the Society of Petroleum Engineers, and with the United Way. When not investing in new start-up companies and the stock market, John enjoys golf, tennis, and scuba diving. John and Trish, avid travelers who are planning to make the "Library Tour of Ireland and Scotland" in 2000, have three sons - John III, Robert, and Patrick.

WELLINGTON YU



Wellington Yu

Wellington is Silent Auction champion on the Friends of Fondren Board. Year after year, he finds the most original and successful items. He often contributes from among

his and his wife Serena's own lovely possessions, including one year a beautiful painting that attracted the most interest of any item, but which unfortunately Serena did not know he was contributing!

She, however, is as generous as Wellington, so all was well. Wellington is a hard-working McDonald's Franchise owner, but still finds time to devote to many civic groups other than the Friends. He is on the Houston American Red Cross Board, serving as the liaison between the Baytown Chapter and the main office. He also serves on the board of the Chinese Community Center in the southwest Houston area, an organization that provides an ESL program and a jobs program, among others. In his spare time he is an avid golfer, and enjoys traveling with Serena to home and garden trade shows. He and Serena are the proud parents of Christina, a sophomore at Rice, and Catherine, a freshman at Rice.

Board Profiles continued

PAMELA GIRAUD

From her first year on the Friends of Fondren Board, Pamela has been an idea person. She can be counted on to contribute some original thought even now as she serves as the secretary to the board. Additionally, her energy and organization skills have been a major factor in increasing attendance two fold at the Friends of Fondren Annual Meeting in the two years she has chaired that event. Beyond Fondren, her skills have been much appreciated in the community, where for fourteen years she has served on the Board of Directors of the Chinquapin School. She is also the "Mayor" of Stanmore Place in River Oaks, where she and her hus-



Pamela Giraud

band Charles have long resided, and is a member of the Blossom Club. In the summers Pamela can be found outside Colorado Springs in a 100 year-old rough-hewn lodge. It was built by the first itinerant preacher in the Ute Pass area and has been in Pamela's family for 45 years. She enjoys the solitude and beauty that setting provides. Pamela and her husband Charles, a native Houstonian and Rice alumnus, have a son, Will, who is currently a sophomore at Wake Forest. Not surprisingly, Pamela and Charles are members of the Executive Council at Wake Forest.

Sally Reynolds Expansion Project Coordinator Named

By ELIZABETH BABER

Sally Reynolds has been appointed to the new position of Project Coordinator of the Renovation and Expansion of Fondren Library. She sees her job mainly as one of communication—ensuring that faculty, staff, students, and the community know what is happening in regard to the library renovation so that they can prepare for the upcoming changes. Sally says that, "although a new physical building will be welcomed, getting from here to there will be a bit of a trip." As a member of the Project Planning Committee and a regular attendee at meetings of the library's advisory working groups, Sally will have access to the most up-to-date information. Methods of disseminating this information are still developing, but current plans include a Web site and regular columns in library and, possibly, other publications.

Sally's educational background has prepared her well for her new responsibilities. She earned both a B.A. in Speech Communication from California State University at Fresno and an M.A. in Mass Communication Studies from the University of Houston. For the last twenty-two years she has had her own business as an art dealer, consultant, and curator, but she says that she is ready for a new challenge now.

Long active as a community volunteer, Sally served for eight years on the board of the Friends



of Fondren Library and for two years as the group's president. She was a member of the University of Houston's Moores School of Music Society Board for thirteen years and also presided as its president for two years. For several years she volunteered in various capacities for the Houston Symphony, serving on both the board and the Executive Committee and chairing the Education Committee and the Ima Hogg National Young Artists Competition.

Currently Sally is a board member of Theater Under the Stars, the Hobby Center for Performing Arts, and the Friends of the Houston School for Performing and Visual Arts. She is also a member of the Municipal Arts Commission.

Sally is delighted to be part of the Rice team and is looking forward to working with the entire Rice community.

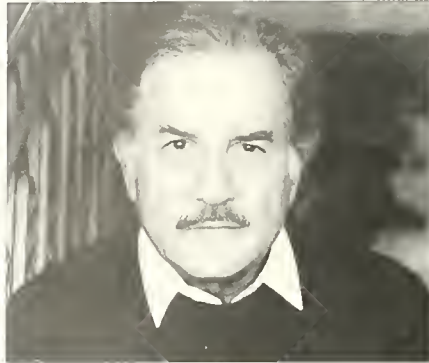
Confession, Biography, and Fiction

By TEXAS ANDERSON

The 1999 Friends of Fondren Distinguished Guest Lecturer was the noted author and diplomat, Carlos Fuentes. The audience embraced the handsome Fuentes by their enthusiastic applause as he strode onto the stage of the Stude Concert Hall on Sunday, October 17. Fuentes in turn electrified them with the rich voice of a master storyteller. He switched roles without pause—from lecturer, to dispassionate observer, to rueful lover. It is one thing to be exposed to magical realism in print, but quite another to hear and become a part of the magic. Fuentes, like Picasso and García Márquez, fractures the comfortable reality as he introduces a new and disorienting world.

It may not be absolutely true that all writing is political, but Carlos Fuentes never lets us forget that his life and his fiction are inseparable from his passionate political convictions. He was Mexico's Ambassador to France (in 1992 François Mitterand presented him with the Legion of Honor). A tireless advocate for social reform, he serves as a member of Mexico's National Commission on Human Rights. It is his internationally acclaimed writing, however that has been most influential, most political. A citizen of the world, he is nonetheless a Mexican nationalist who returns repeatedly in his fiction to the struggle against North American puritanism and materialism.

Who are they, for God's sake...? they are the old three hundred, the founders of gringo



Carlos Fuentes

texanity...all of them want land...freedom, protestantism...(can we not) accept each other as we really are, gringos and Mexicans, destined to live together at the border of the river...poor Mexico, poor United States, so far from God, so near each other.

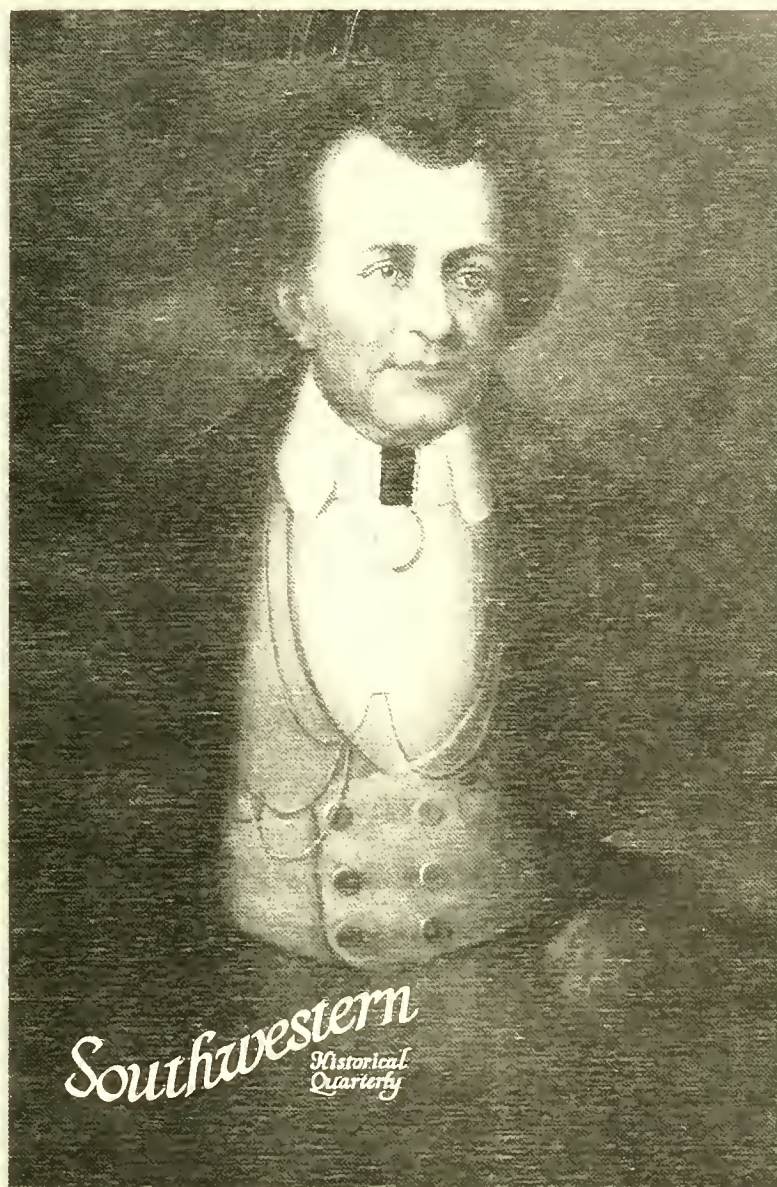
Just as his fiction is inseparable from the political, his politics are entwined with the personal. "Confession, biography and fiction," Fuentes tells us, "have this in common: they all want to recapture the generosity of life that time has squandered." He reveals that the title character of *Diana, The Goddess Who Hunts Alone* is to some extent ("perhaps 50%") the actress Jean Seberg. Although not up to the demands of her role as Joan of Arc, Fuentes maintains, Seberg was a "star" in the political world of the 1960s, a youthful, provocative blonde courted by actors, politicians, and artists. Because of this fame, she was an immensely desirable creature to the writer experiencing a "mid-life crisis."

Although we can read biographies about Seberg and see her old films, the lecturer reminds us that all the characters, including

Diana, can only be known through the novel. She/they are ultimately the invention of the writer. In *Diana* and many other of his narratives, Fuentes fractures and then fuses the three genres, confession, biography, and fiction. Together they are a rueful recollection of past glories, personal and cultural.

Fuentes, like other magical realists, contends that western man has lost his way and in a barren reality is estranged from the universe. The emphasis on rationalism, on technologically pure logic, has shrugged off myth and the spiritual as emotional garbage, the ashes of pride burned in the conquest. Fuentes argues to the contrary that western rationalism is "the Alcatraz of the soul" where man is imprisoned by a vicious capitalistic society which ignores man's relationship and responsibility not to the poor and oppressed, but to the universe itself. Fuentes in his mosaic of confession (a passionate expression to our creator), biography (the past strained through a personal reality), and fiction brings us face to face with a pride wounded by the arrogance of western culture and presents an uncomfortable reality that demands our attention.

At the reception following his talk, Fuentes further endeared himself to his audience by personally inscribing books for each person patiently waiting in a long, long, line. He also discussed with them the craft of writing and graciously posed for photographs with spellbound students, teachers, and readers.



Mirabeau B. Lamar

Infernal Chinchies and Musquitos

BY ELIZABETH W. KIDD

Having heard recently the story of how the Woodson Research Center of Fondren Library became the proud recipient of a portion of a First Folio of Shakespeare's plays (see inset), I wondered if other stories of the provenance of Woodson possessions might not be equally interesting. How did some of the more special items in the Woodson

come to reside there? I say "items," as opposed to books and manuscripts, because, while the latter predominate, the Woodson is also the proud owner of Mussolini's shaving kit and Edgar Odell Lovett's top hat, among other objects.

Nancy Booth, the University Archivist, assured me that such interesting stories abound, and we have de-

cided to write about them in this and future issues of *The Flyleaf*. Nancy and Lee Pecht, Associate Archivist, provided me the material for many stories, but the first to pique my interest was that of the Mirabeau B. Lamar diary. I should tell you that those in the know pronounce his name not as "Mirrabo," but as "Myrabo," according to his descendants who wrote to Fondren upon hearing of the acquisition of the diary. Such intriguing small facts can be found in the files associated with many of the Woodson's treasures.

In the files related to the Lamar diary were included many names of Fondren and Rice lore; among them, Hardin Craig, William Dix, J.W. Phillips, Bill Hobby, and Nancy Booth. The diary came to the attention of William Dix at the end of his tenure at Rice in 1952. It was listed in the "Catalogue of Diaries and Journals" of a Cambridge bookseller, Edward Morris & Son, Inc. The description was of a "(ANON) Manuscript journal of a Journey to Texas in 1835. Kept in Account Book, 8vo, full calf, 191pp V.P., 1835." Dix thought it might be important and had the diary sent on approval. Suspecting the diary might be Lamar's, he asked Reference Librarian Phillips to establish its authorship.

According to the young reporter and then recent Rice graduate Bill Hobby's subsequent article in the *Houston Post*, Phillips discovered that a reference to a "brother-in-law, Mr. Moreland," and to a time of residence in Putnam County, Georgia, were both consistent with Lamar's life. Then Stan Siegel, a Rice graduate student in history, found a reference to a newspaper the diarist had published, again consistent with Lamar's history. Finally, Phillips and

Dix traveled to the museum at the San Jacinto Monument, where some of Lamar's letters were preserved, and found the handwriting consistent. The diary was then purchased for the princely sum of \$450. According to a note in 1953 from Dix to Hardin Craig, the new librarian, the purchase was made from the "Friends Fund," an early reference to the Friends of Fondren Library. In his article, Bill Hobby surmised that the authentication of the diary had increased its value "perhaps 10 times."

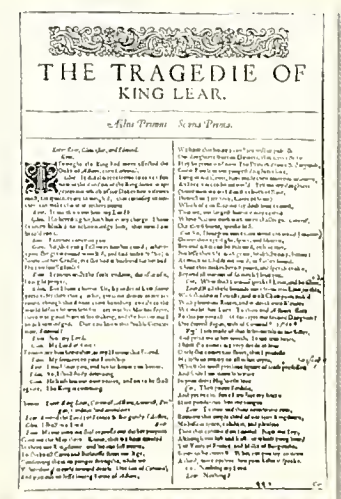
Nancy Booth, at the time a recent Rice graduate and new employee of the library, was serving as assistant to the librarian, and thus was involved in the diary's purchase. She later transcribed portions of the Diary for her Master's Thesis, and fascinating

reading they make. She wrote of how Lamar had set out on a second trip to Texas to decide if he might move there. In one entry he describes Texans thus: "The people here are remarkable for swearing. Old Mr. Capell, a preacher, says that he is disposed to excuse it in them because it is constitutional with them." This entry immediately preceded an entry headed (in large letters) with the title "INFERNAL CHINCHES AND MUSQUITOS."

As we know, however, Mirabeau B. Lamar found the chinchies, mosquitoes, and profanity tolerable enough to move here. Happily, you can read those and others of his observations in the Woodson Research Center.

William B. Hunter, a Milton scholar who taught at the University of Houston, Vanderbilt University, and other universities, donated three First Folio texts of Shakespeare's tragedies to Rice in the summer of 1998. Hunter had a close relationship with Rice through SEL, a quarterly journal of historical and critical studies, edited by Robert L. Patten, the Lynette S. Autrey Professor in Humanities.

In the early '90s, Hunter submitted a paper to SEL that questioned John Milton's authorship of a treatise on Christianity. Scholars had long tried to reconcile Milton's theological views expressed in *Paradise Lost* with the treatise, which was at odds with the theology expressed in the epic and other Milton works. For the next three years, the editors



of SEL worked closely with Hunter as he and other scholars debated his findings. The relationship with SEL paved the way for Hunter's donation to Rice.

BY PHILIP MONTGOMERY
RICE NEWS

Friends of Fondren Library

February 1, 1999-September 30, 1999
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